

- 10 -

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to Claims 3, 17, 31, and 52 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner has further stated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully asserts that the independent claims have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner. Further, independent Claim 43 has been amended to substantially incorporate the subject matter of allowable Claim 17.

Thus, all of the independent claims are deemed allowable. Moreover, the remaining dependent claims are further deemed allowable, in view of their dependence on such independent claims.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. NAIIP472/01.058.01).

Respectfully submitted,
Zilka-Kotab, PC.

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